

Application Serial No. 10/645,274
Reply to Office Action of May 18, 2005

PATENT
Docket: CU-3402

REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated May 18, 2005, the Examiner states that Claims 1-9 are pending and Claims 1-9 are rejected. By the present Amendment, Applicant amends the claims.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-3 and 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Musall (US 2,349,983). Dependent Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Musall in view of McPhee (US 5,363,619).

On September 27, 2005, the undersigned attorney conducted a telephone interview with Examiner Chapman, who is now assigned to the present application. The Applicant argued that the claimed device comprises the assembly of first and second modules while the prior art discloses a device having only a single module. The Examiner indicated that since usually multiple devices are used together longitudinally disposed in relation to one another, that this satisfies the claimed first and second module limitation. The Examiner further suggested that an amendment to Claim 1 to indicate that "...said first and second modules being assembled flush against one another so that the raised parts of the first and second module face each other..." would likely overcome the present rejections.

While the Applicant considers that the claims already define the laterally adjacent assembly of the first and second modules rather than a longitudinal arrangement of singular modules in separate devices, the Applicant has amended Claim 1 to indicate "said first module disposed adjacent said second module with the raised parts of the first and second module facing each other". As such the raised parts of the first and second modules are adjacently disposed and facing each other in each device. This is not disclosed, taught or motivated by the prior art.

The Applicant amended Claim 1 to clarify that claim, and choose the "disposed adjacent" language which should be interpreted as the raised parts being disposed close to each other, but not necessarily touching each other. As depicted in the drawing figures, the raised parts may be slightly separated, such as by with use of a separation sheet as described in the application. The "flush against one another" language suggested by the Examiner is deemed to be too limiting in that the raised parts would be defined as touching one another in a flush arrangement, which is just one possible embodiment of the present invention.

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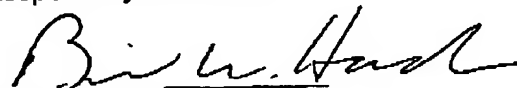
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In the interview the Examiner also requested that the Applicant further describe the separation sheet 12 in this subsequent response for the Examiner's better understanding of that element. Figure 1 shows a thin separation sheet 12 disposed between adjacent raised parts 8 of modules 1 and 2. The separation sheet acts as a barrier to cover the openings, that are created in the raised parts 8 by the cutting and folding of the module as described in paragraph 20 of the application to form the flat parts 4. The thin separation sheet 12 that is shown in the drawing figures (although not necessarily thin) is seen well only in perspective Figure 1, being too thin to be well depicted and seen in the other drawing figures.

In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections are considered overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that this application should now be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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